Match Report

Sep 17   **Home   North Walsham 2**   **Lost 5-42**

Team

Starting Lineup

1) Ryan 'Duff' Duffy 2) Callum 'WilKo' Wilkins 3) George Collett

4) Tom 'BFT' Powell 5) Aaron Stevens

6) George Mills 7) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 8) Joe Paddison

9) Doug Ellis 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge

11) Josh Vail 12) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 13) Jon Farrer 14) Jake Sweet

15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

16) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode 17) Nic Mainiero 18) Fraser Johnson

Report

Having lost twice to North Walsham last season, Renegades knew they were in for a stiff challenge as the Visitors from Norfolk gathered at the Village College. The visiting side was very young and looked fast and skilful as they warmed up. Both teams lined up for a respectful silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth and this was followed once again by a round of applause.

North Walsham kicked off and Renegades managed to hold on to the ball for a while. As soon as Walsham got possession, they piled pressure on to Renegades. Renegades were defending their line and Duff got a yellow card for lying on the ball. The resulting penalty saw Walsham move wide to the right and a nice step in broke the Renegades defensive line and the try was made. The conversion was good, 0-7. This was followed in short order by a lightening run by the Walsham 14 along the right touchline and running behind the posts for to make the conversion a foregone conclusion. It was, 0-14.

Renegades regrouped after conceding tow tries and began to make an impact on the game, helped by the referee wising up to the almost permanent offside play by the Walsham backline. These penalties gave Renegades the opportunity to venture into the Walsham 22 and apply some pressure on the visitors. After a couple of attempts, a lineout from a penalty set up a lovely driving maus to which Walsham had no answer. The pack powered the Walsham line with BFT touching down. The conversion pulled slightly left, 5-14. Duff was allowed back on to the field.

Walsham upped the pressure again forcing some good defensive work from Renegades. Eventually, a kick through bounced up beautifully for a Walsham Player and Walsham scored another try which was converted.

A little while later, Callum was forced off with a damaged back. Big Mike went on. Another bout of intense pressure from Walden was well defended and they got no additional points, and the pressure was relieved eventually. As half time approached, another blazing run down the right touchline was touched down under the posts. The conversion was good, and the half-time whistle went, 5-28.

The second half began again with intense pressure from Walsham. Duff's shoulder forced him to retire and Nic came on in the second row with BFT moving to the front row. Eventually, Walsham added another converted try, 5-35.

There followed a prolonged period of stoical defence from Renegades. Walsham came again and again in waves. The defence held. They crossed the Renegades line on three occasions but were held up (for what seemed like minutes), passed forward and kicked the ball dead before the attacking player could get it down.

As the game entered its final 15 minutes, Aaron and Stockers both earned yellow cards for transgressions which they didn't understand. As full time approached, Walsham got another converted try, 5-42. There was a restart and a blistering run by Ollie made many yards, forcing Walsham to defend vigorously. The ball was turned over and the final whistle went.

It was a tough day at the office. Walsham have a very good team, young, fast, keeping plenty of options alive when they had the ball and fierce in the tackle when defending. They look like they will do very well in this league.

Doug Ellis for lasting the 80 minutes with a dodgy hip. Also. Proccy, for tremendous work rate and fierce tackling.

Stockers for his yellow card and the good grace with which it wasn't taken.

Scores
Tries: Tom 'BFT' Powell

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
Pictures by Peter Haigh (see Peter's Flickr page for the full set)